

CLAIMS:

We claim:

1. A system with a bi-directional bridge (media converter) between a Power Line Communications (PLC) based network and a coaxial based network wherein the PLC side provides the Wide Area Network connection and the coaxial side provides a Local Area Network connection and bi-directional bridge allows the bi-directional transport of standard media protocols from the high or medium voltage Wide Area Network side to low voltage requirements of the coaxial networks.
2. The system with the bi-directional bridge of claim 1 wherein RF signals containing the standard media protocols are conveyed over the PLC based networks to a media converter located associated with a building with at least one dwelling unit.
3. The system with the bi-directional bridge of claim 2 further comprising at least one additional media converter to allow the extension of the Wide Area Network to support the deployment of broadband services across a physically dispersed area without the requirement for separate and unique Wide Area Network connections.